**Learn the conjugation patterns for irregular French -re verbs**

**1.** The first group includes [prendre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/prendre.htm) and all of its derivations (*comprendre*, etc). These verbs **drop the d** in all three plural forms and also **double the n** in the third person plural.  
  
**2.** The second group includes [battre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/battre.htm) and all of its derivations (*débattre*, etc).

These verbs **drop the stem's final t** in the singular forms.  
  
**3.** The third group includes [mettre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/mettre.htm) and all of its derivations (*promettre*, etc).

These verbs are conjugated just like *battre* verbs in the present tense, but I consider them a separate group because they are conjugated differently in the [passé simple](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/passesimple.htm) and [past participle](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/pastparticiple.htm).  
  
**4.** The fourth group of irregular -RE verbs includes [rompre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/rompre.htm) and its derivations (*corrompre*, etc).

These verbs are conjugated exactly like [regular -RE verbs](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/reverbs_regular.htm) with the single exception of the third person singular present tense, which adds a **t** after the stem.  
  
**5.** The fifth group of irregular -RE verbs includes all verbs that end in -*aindre* (e.g., [craindre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/craindre.htm)), -*eindre* (like [peindre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/peindre.htm)), and -*oindre* (such as [joindre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/joindre.htm)).

These verbs **drop the d** in the root in all forms, and **add a g in front of the n** in the plural forms.  
  
The rest of the irregular -RE verbs have unique or unwieldy conjugations, so you have to memorize each one separately. Try working on one verb a day until you've mastered them all:[absoudre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/absoudre.htm), [boire](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/boire.htm), [clore](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/clore.htm), [conclure](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/conclure.htm), [conduire](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/conduire.htm), [confire](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/confire.htm), [connaître](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/connaitre.htm), [coudre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/coudre.htm), [croire](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/croire.htm), [dire](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/dire.htm), [écrire](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/ecrire.htm), [faire](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/faire.htm), [inscrire](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/inscrire.htm), [lire](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/lire.htm), [moudre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/moudre.htm), [naître](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/naitre.htm), [plaire](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/plaire.htm), [rire](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/rire.htm), [suivre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/suivre.htm), [vivre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/vivre.htm).

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|  | |  | **Group 1** |  | **Group 2** |  | **Group 3** |
| [Pronoun](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/ss/subjectpronouns.htm) | *Endings* |  | [*prendre*](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/prendre.htm) *> pren(d)-* |  | [*battre*](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/battre.htm) *> bat(t)* |  | [*mettre*](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/mettre.htm) *> met(t)* |
| **je** | -s |  | prends |  | bats |  | mets |
| **tu** | -s |  | prends |  | bats |  | mets |
| **il** | - |  | prend |  | bat |  | met |
| **nous** | -ons |  | prenons |  | battons |  | mettons |
| **vous** | -ez |  | prenez |  | battez |  | mettez |
| **ils** | -ent |  | prennent |  | battent |  | mettent |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | **Group 4** |  | **Group 5** |  |  |
| [Pronoun](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/ss/subjectpronouns.htm) | *Endings* |  | [*rompre*](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/rompre.htm) *> romp-* |  | [*craindre*](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/craindre.htm) *> crain-/craign-* | | |
| **je** | -s |  | romps |  | crains |  |  |
| **tu** | -s |  | romps |  | crains |  |  |
| **il** | -t |  | rompt |  | craint |  |  |
| **nous** | -ons |  | rompons |  | craignons |  |  |
| **vous** | -ez |  | rompez |  | craignez |  |  |
| **ils** | -ent |  | rompent |  | craignent |  |  |

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| Group 1—prendre  [apprendre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/apprendre.htm) to learn    [comprendre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/comprendre.htm) to understand    [entreprendre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/entreprendre.htm) to undertake    [méprendre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/meprendre.htm) to mistake    [prendre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/prendre.htm) to take    [reprendre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/reprendre.htm) to retake, take again  [surprendre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/surprendre.htm) to surprise | Group 2—  battre  [abattre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/abattre.htm)  [combattre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/combattre.htm)  [débattre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/debattre.htm) | Group 3—  mettre  [admettre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/admettre.htm) to admit    [commettre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/commettre.htm) to commit    [compromettre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/compromettre.htm) to compromise    [mettre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/mettre.htm) to put    [permettre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/permettre.htm) to permit    [promettre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/promettre.htm) to promise    [soumettre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/soumettre.htm) to submit    [transmettre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/transmettre.htm) to transmit | Group 4—  rompre  [corrompre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/corrompre.htm)  [interrompre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/interrompre.htm) | Group 5—  craindre  [craindre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/craindre.htm) to fear  [plaindre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/plaindre.htm) to pity, to feel sorry for  [atteindre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/atteindre.htm) to attain, to reach  [éteindre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/eteindre.htm) to extinguish, to snuff out  [peindre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/peindre.htm) to paint  [disjoindre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/disjoindre.htm) to disconnect, to separate  [joindre](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/joindre.htm) to join |